

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended to further clarify the nature of the invention. The amendment finds basis at page 4, paragraph 3 of the specification. No new matter is entered.

Entry of the accompanying amendment is respectfully requested, as it places the claims into condition for allowance, or in the alternative into better condition for consideration on appeal.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Cogen in view of DeNicola, Jr.

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Cogen in view of DeNicola, Jr. Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Applicants reiterate their comments in traverse of the application of the cited references as to the present claims, as set forth in their previous response of July 9, 2008.

As recognized by the Examiner, Cogen fails to disclose the use of a strain hardened polypropylene as a dielectric layer in a coaxial cable.

DeNicola, Jr. discloses a process for producing strain hardened polypropylene, and that the resulting polymer "can be converted into useful products by extrusion coating, including...wire and cable coating..." (col. 9, lines 6-9).

The polypropylenes according to DeNicola Jr. are treated with irradiation to form the polymer having strain-hardening behavior (col. 4, lines 24-27). Such

a treatment leads to an inhomogeneous distribution of the long chain branches, as the polymer facing the irradiation device contains a large number of long chain branches, whereas the polymer on the side opposing the irradiation device substantially contains no long chain branches. The high amount of branches in one part of the polymer leads to a high gel content, i.e. polymer insoluble in xylene, which is detrimental to the dielectric properties of the material as impedance is caused thereby which is undesirable. As a result the polypropylenes according to De Nicola Jr. do not have the dielectric properties required for coaxial cables.

In contrast, Claim 1 of the present application now requires that the long chain branches are introduced by a thermally decomposing, radical-forming agent. Such a radical forming agent is homogeneously distributed in the polymer as can be seen from page 11, paragraph 4 of the application as-filed, describing the process for introducing the long chain branches. As the radical forming agent is homogeneously distributed within the polymer, the long chain branches are also homogeneously distributed, i.e. the polymer has a significantly lower gel content compared with the polymers according to De Nicola Jr.

Consequently, the polymers according to claim 1 of the present invention and DeNicola Jr. are not substantially identical and thus the haul-off force and draw-down velocity as required by claim 1 of the present application cannot be said to be inherently met by DeNicola Jr.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested on this basis.

Further, as already discussed in Applicants' previous responses, the skilled artisan would not combine Cogen with DeNicola, Jr., as DeNicola, Jr. (and Comer) does not relate to the dielectric properties of the polymers disclosed

therein. Hence the skilled person has no incentive to replace the polymers as used in Cogen with one of the polymers used in DeNicola, Jr. or Comer.

Even if he/she would, he/she could not arrive at the present invention as the polymers according to DeNicola, Jr. and Comer have inferior properties compared with the polymers according to the present invention. Albeit DeNicola, Jr. mentions wire and cable coating, this does not give any hint that the polymers are suitable as dielectric layers (which they are not; c.f. above) because the objective of a coating layer is mechanical protection only, i.e. the layer should be tough and ultraviolet resistant. A dielectric layer within a coaxial or triaxial cable as required by claim 1 of the present invention must have good dielectric properties which provide for no signal loss at high frequencies whereby mechanical properties are not an issue.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested on this basis.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Cogen in view of DeNicola, Jr. and
further in view of Comer**

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Cogen in view of DeNicola, Jr., and further in view of Comer. Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Applicants reiterate their comments in traverse of the application of the cited references as to the present claims, as set forth in their previous response of July 9, 2008, and reiterate the discussion above relative to the combination of Cogen and DeNicola, Jr.

Comer fails to cure the deficiencies of Cogen and DeNicola, Jr. Like DeNicola, Jr., Comer forms his strain-hardened polymer by irradiation, which causes the same deficiencies as in DeNicola, Jr. Likewise, Comer is directed to mechanical properties of polymers, and is not concerned with electrical properties, as set forth above.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

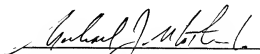
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-2478 (12466).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt notification of allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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